

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03892 251513Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7997

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3892

NODIS

FOR CHRISTOPHER FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS IR
SUBJ: GOI DISCOURAGEMENT OF DISSIDENT POLITICAL ACTION

REF: A. TEHRAN 3870, B. TEHRAN 10827 (77)

1. I AM BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY THE EVIDENCE THAT IRANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO RESORT TO HEAVY-HANDED MEANS TO DISCOURAGE DISSIDENT POLITICAL ACTION. REF A IS THE LATEST CASE IN POINT.

2. THESE ACTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN DESPITE THE SHAH'S REITERATED ASSURANCES TO ME AND OTHERS THAT HE CONTINUES TO PURSUE A POLICY OF "LIBERALIZATION" AND DESPITE PRIME MINISTER AMOUEZGAR'S ASSURANCES (REF B) THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY WOULD NOT RESORT TO BROWNSHIRT TACTICS IN THEIR "SILEN MAJORITY" RESISTENCE TO DISSIDENT VIOLENCE.

3. I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT MY CONCERNS TO TWO CABINET MINISTERS AND FOUND THEM BOTH PRIVATELY SYMPATHETIC. IT IS MY INTENTION TO MAKE A MORE FORMAL REPRESENTATION TO AMOUEZGAR, SINCE THE SO-CALLED "RESISTENCE CORPS" IS NOMINALLY UNDER HIS CONTROL. I INTEND ALSO TO REMIND HIM OF HIS EARLIER

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ASSURANCES TO ME ABOUT NON-VIOLENCE.

4. I SAW AMOUEZGAR BRIEFLY AT THE AIRPORT YESTERDAY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE TOLD ME THAT, WHILE IN WASHINGTON, HE HAD MET A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE CONGRESS, BUT ALSO FROM THE DEPARTMENT. IN PARTICULAR, HE MENTIONED ATHERTON.

5. IN A MESSAGE WHICH I SENT THROUGH ANOTHER CHANNEL, I
RECOMMENDED THAT A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL RAISE
OUR CONCERN WITH HIM DURING HIS RECENT STAY IN WASHINGTON.
BEFORE I MEET WITH HIM AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THIS
WAS DONE AND, IF SO, WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING IN THAT
CONVERSATION ON WHICH I CAN BUILD IN MY TALK WITH HIM.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

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